

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in this patent application. Claim 45 is currently amended.

Claims 1-44 and 46-55 are original. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants acknowledge indication by the Examiner that claims 1-3, 6-13, 15, 16, 19-23, 25, 30, 31, 39, 41-49 and 51-54 are allowed, and that claims 45 and 46 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. In response, claim 45 has been amend to provide the phrase missing following “woven” at line 15. We submit that claim 45, as amended, overcomes the rejection and is now in condition to be allowed, and that claim 46, as dependent from claim 45, is also allowable on that basis.

Claims 4, 5, 14, 17, 18, 26-29, 32-38, 40, 50 and 55 are indicated to be withdrawn for being directed to a non-elected invention. However, these claims are, in fact, directed to provisionally non-elected species, with the election to take effect only if no generic claim was finally held to be allowable. All of the claims indicated to be generic (claims 1-3, 9-12, 15, 31, 39 and 43-49) have now been allowed. We submit, therefore, that claims 4, 5, 14, 17, 18, 26-29, 32-38, 40, 50 and 55, directed to a non-elected species, should be allowed as well. The examiner is directed to MPEP §809.02(c), which says, in part,

When *all* claims to each of the additional species are embraced by an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141, applicant must be advised of the allowable generic claim and that claims drawn to the non-elected species are no longer withdrawn since they are fully embraced by the allowed generic claim.

We submit that this application, with claims 1-55, is now in condition for allowance. Early favorable action is solicited.

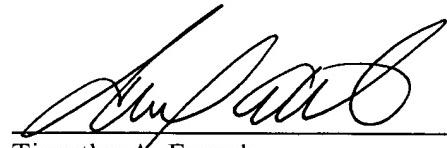
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Respectfully submitted,

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